Appl. No. 10/540,162 Preliminary Amdt. Dated December 21, 2005 Reply to Office action of N/A

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No.

: 10/540,162

Applicant

: Andreas Schuetze et al.

Filed

June 17, 2005

Title

VACUUM ARC SOURCE WITH DEVICE FOR PRODUCING A

MAGNETIC FIELD

Conf. No.

:

TC/A.U. Examiner

TBD TBD

Customer No.

000,116

Docket No.

38300

TBD

Mail Stop PCT Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT "A"

Sir:

Please amend the above-identified application, prior to examination thereof, in the following manner.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 2 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets (16 total).

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 3 of this paper.

An Appendix including amended drawing figures is attached following page 3 of this paper.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop PCT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Michael W. Garvey

December 21, 2005

Name of Attorney for Applicant(s)

Signature of Attorney/Date